

Page 1, before the paragraph starting on line 3, insert the following heading:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, before the paragraph starting on line 6, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 2 and 3 with the following:

~~t~~OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a portable article of the smart card type, the article comprising firstly a body and secondly an integrated circuit chip, said integrated circuit chip having a central processor unit connected via a data and address bus to memories, and further including at least a first contact pad suitable for providing the chip with a power supply voltage, a second contact pad suitable for grounding the chip, a third contact pad and a fourth contact pad, said contact pads being electrically connected respectively to a first contact area, a second contact area, a third contact area, and a fourth contact area of a set of at least six contact areas flush with the surface of the article body, and one object of the invention is to enable such a portable article to operate in manners other than those specified by Part 3 of the 7816 standard, and in particular without using the T=0 and T=1 protocols and the formats required of data as described in that standard~~t~~.

Page 3, replace the paragraphs between lines 3 to 16 with the following:

Q3 ~~A~~This and other objects are attained in accordance with one aspect of the invention which provides a portable article, characterized in that the third and fourth contacts pads connected to an interface of the chip constitute a differential pair and are suitable for providing both-way data transmission under the control of the central processor unit.

Another aspect of the invention also provides a method of transmitting data to an integrated circuit chip, which method is characterized in that the data handled by the central processor unit is transmitted in both directions via the third and fourth contact pads which constitute a differential pair and are connected to an interface of the chip.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS ~~f~~.

Page 4, replace the paragraph in lines 1-3 with the following:

Q4 --Figure 5 is a diagram that illustrates connecting a card to a connector of a reader.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Replace the paragraph in lines 24 to 33 with the following:

Q5 The chip 9 is a silicon die carrying integrated circuits of topology that defines various functional elements of the chip that are interconnected by the lines of a data and address bus 10. As shown diagrammatically in Figures 3 and 4, these

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elements comprise in particular a central processor unit CPU, a volatile memory RAM, a non-volatile program memory ROM, an electrically erasable and programmable non-volatile memory EEPROM, and in accordance with the invention a special interface, in particular a USB interface. This is a differential-signal interface that is able to receive and transmit data in the form of differential signals. Further details about such signals and the interface are provided below.--

Page 8, replace the entire page with the following:

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--via the USB interface only, and cards that can operate in both ways.

In a particularly advantageous embodiment shown diagrammatically in Figure 5, the connector of a reader for reading a card of the invention is made in such a manner that the connection sequence takes place mechanically as follows during card insertion: initially a connection is made to area C5, and then to areas C4 and C8, and finally connection is made to the area C1 to power the chip. This is advantageous because the IC receives a power supply voltage from the reader via C5 and C1 only after the areas C4 and C8 have received a defined voltage from the reader. This ensures that the signal inputs coupled to areas C4 and C8 already have defined voltages once the chip becomes active. This prevents malfunctioning of the chip which might otherwise occur if the chip were to receive a power supply voltage while the signal inputs coupled to areas C4 and C8 have